ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 23, 213–214 (1977)

Book Reviews

M. HOLLANDER AND D. A. WOLFE, *Non-Parametric Statistical Methods*, Wiley, 1973, 504 pp. Among the plethora of books published each year in nonparametric statistics, this one is unusually useful in several respects. The authors take particular care to present their results in a form best suited to applications, with ample examples and detailed tables.

JU. I. HIMELEVSKII, *Equations in Semigroups*, American Mathematical Society, 1976, 270 pp. This book, though not as deep as Lentin's, presents a good view of a puzzlingly profound branch of combinatorial algebra. The subject, still at that repelling stage of primitiveness when graduate students are scared away, promises a substantial and unusually well-connected development.

U. GRENANDER, *Pattern Synthesis*, Vol. 1, Springer, 1976, 509 pp. Far removed as we may be from a statisfactory theory of pattern recognition, Grenander's effort may be the most faithful to the aesthetic requirements of the mathematician. Whatever "practical" result his elegant theories will in time yield, they are at least a pleasure to read.

G. CHERLIN, *Model-Theoretic Algebra, Selected Topics*, Springer, 1976, 234 pp. The topics are well-selected, and bear witness to the growing importance of logic in algebra. This book should be required reading of algebraists, especially those who need to balance a categorical *surménage*.

L. SKLAR, *Space, Time and Spacetime*, University of California Press, 1974, 423 pp. The problem of the nature of time, which for a while seemed to have been overshadowed by special relativity, is suddenly alive again. There is even a society for the study of time! This book, better than most of the two dozen recently written on the subject, succeeds in baring the complex philosophical nature of the problem, and the immense difficulties in understanding it.

A. FRIEDMAN, *Stochastic Differential Equations and Applications*, Vols. 1 and 2, Academic Press, 1975–1976, pp. 528. Innocently starting with the study of Brownian motion, this thorough and substantial treatise leads into the finest intricacies of this still esoteric subject, all the way to stochastic games. A reading of these two volumes would be more than sufficient training for a student in probability.

F. T. BOESCH, Ed., *Large-Scale Networks, Theory and Design*, IEEE Press, 1976, 482 pp. Very little mathematics has direct applications–though fortunately most of it has *plenty of indirect* ones. Network theory does: a good network designer can make or break an airline by judicious or sloppy scheduling, to quote but one instance. If you want to cut yourself into such lucrative business, you may decide to begin by reading this collection of outstanding papers.

W. ACHERMANN, *Solvable Cases of the Decision Problem*, North-Holland, 1968, 114 pp. Although this brief survey will become obsolete as soon as the long-announced treatise by Dreben and Goldfarb appears—soon we hope — it remains an excellent and urbane introduction, written in the charming leisurely style of the early fifties.

ISSN 0001–8708